THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI-PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) In his Budget Speech for 1995-96, Finance Minister had *inter alia,* mentioned that the Government, in consultation with banks had formulated a 'Seven Point Action Plan' for improving flow of credit to small scale industries (SSIs). The Action Plan consists of the following points:

(1) Time bound action needs to be taken by banks for setting up of specialised SSI branches in 85 identified districts each with more than 2000 registered SSI units. These branches should have adequate infastructure and be manned by officials having the necessary background and skills and possessing the right attitude.

(2) The banks should review the existing delegation of powers at the branch and regional levels in order to facilitate timely sanction of adequate credit facilities to SSIs.

(3) The banks should undertake sample surveys of their 'performing' SSI accounts with a view to find out whether they are getting adequate credit.

(4) Steps to ensure that as far as possible composite loans are sanctioned to SSI entrepreneurs. In case of loans sanctioned by State Financial Corporations (SFCs), banks should appraise projects jointly or simultaneously with SFCs.

(5) Banks should hold regular meetings with SSI borrowers at the Zonal and regional levels with a view to sort out their problems.

(6) The banks should reorient their training programmes with a view to sensitise bank managers and increase their awareness regarding working of the SSI sector.

(7) The banks should take steps to review procedural formalities with a view to ensuring that procedures are simplified.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have already instructed public sector banks to take appropriate action for effective implementation of the points contained in the Action Plan.

Regularisation of part time sweepers in Syndicate Bank

1278. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of part time sweepers working in Syndicate Bank on temporary basis;

(b) whether the Bank has not given them appointment on regular basis;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to grant specific permission to Syndicate Bank to regularise their part time sweepers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI-PROSAD PAL): (a) to (d) Syndicate Bank has reported that on account of overall surplus position of staff in the bank restriction was imposed on recruitment as per Memorandum of Understanding signed with Reserve Bank of India. However, the bank has since received clearance from Reserve Bank of India to fill up regular vacancies of sweepers. The bank has further reported that there were 123 regular vacancies identified on 31-3-1995 where temporary part time sweepers are working. The necessary Govt. approval has since been accorded.

Increase in India's debt liability

1279. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's debt liability has increased tremendously during the recent months; if so, the details of debt liability in respect of different types of loans and credits incurred by the country, during September to December, 1995 and January, 1996; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) After reaching a peak of USD 99.0 billion as on 31.3.95, the external debt has declined to USD 93.8 billion on 30.9.95. Provisional estimates of India's external debt are available only upto end-September, 1995, breakup of which is indicated below:—

		(US Dollor Million)
1.	Multilateral	28267
	(i) Government	25686
	(ii) Non-Government	2581
2.	Bilateral	19112
	(i) Government	15666
	(ii) Non-Government	3446
3.	IMF	3377
4.	Export Credit	5902
5.	Commercial Borrowing	12329
6.	NRI and FC (B&O) deposits	12012
7.	Rupee debt	8355
	Total Long-term debt	89353
	Short-term debt	4490
	Grand Total	93843

(b) Recent changes in external debt denominated in US Dollars is mainly due to variation in US Dollar exchange rates vis-a-vis other major currencies.

Restructuring of SEBs

1280. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have issued directives to State Governments on the need of reforms and restructuring of the electricity boards in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) In view of the persistently unsatisfactory physical and financial performance of SEBs in general, Government of India has emphasised in its various communications to the State Governments, the need for reforms/restructuring of the State power sector.

(b) The Ministry of Power has brought to their notice the salient features of reforms carried out in Orissa as well as other options they could consider.

(c) The States of Orissa, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have initiated diagnostic studies to restructure/reform the State level power industry.

Replacement of State Electricity Boards with Commercial Corporations

1281. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to abolish some State Electricity Boards and replace them with Commercial Corporations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and which State Boards are expected to be replaced; and

(c) the details of schemes being drawn up to set up Commercial Corporations in their places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) To facilitate improvement in the Physical and financial performance of the various SEBs, diagnostic studies for reforming/restructuring the state level power industry have been initiated by States of Orissa, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

Based on the findings of diagnostic studies, Government of Orissa has enacted the Orissa Electricity Reform